[30th September 1955

Cottage industries among Harijans

* 2596 Q.—SRI O. KORAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for the revival of cottage industries among Harijans in Malabar; and

(b) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) & (b) No scheme has been formulated exclusively for the benefit of the Harijans of Malabar. Schemes already sanctioned by Government and schemes proposed to be started under the Draft Second Five-Year Plan for the development of Small Scale and Cottage Industries in Malabar will benefit the Harijans also, along with the members of other communities, in Malabar.

* SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP: Will the Government consider the question of organizing societies for the making of mats so as to give them employment and reasonable wages?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Yes, Sir, Government will examine that also.

SRI O. KORAN: May I know, Sir, whether Government have gathered any statistics as to what all things are manufactured there in Malabar and in which Harijans are engaged?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Government are having a general survey of the possibilities of various small industries which will give employment to the people who are now unemployed.

Foreign milk powder and ghee

* 2597 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Roman Catholic Church in Madras State are distributing foreign milk powder and ghee in this State; and

(b) if so, from what country or countries these articles of food-stuff are imported?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From charitable institutions in the United States of America.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Since they are now being distributed at the entire grace and whims of certain church dignitaries and certain objections have also come up against such distribution, would Government have some supervision over this distribution?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The Church World Service of America and some institutions supply these gift articles for distribution in the State. These articles are received in the name